

Consumption of fertilizers and Pesticides

3575. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the per hectare consumption of NPK fertilizers and pesticides in irrigated and rainfed areas of the country as on March 31, 1991;

(b) whether the recent hike in prices of fertilizers have affected the consumption of fertilizers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed by the government to increase the consumption fertilizers and organic manures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The per hectare consumption of fertilizers and pesticides in the country during 1990-91 is estimated to be 72.75 kgs and 400 gms, respectively. The consumption data for irrigated and rainfed areas are not collected separately.

(b) and (c). The fertiliser consumption during 1991-92 is likely to be about 13.5 million tonnes of nutrients against the estimated consumption of 12.576 million tonnes during 1990-91 which shows a significant increase.

(d) The Following steps have been taken to increase the consumption of fertilisers and organic manures in the country;

(i) 1991-92 at a cost of Rs. 405 crores to make fertilisers available to small and marginal farmers at old prices.

(ii) The State governments have been

advised to exempt fertiliser dealers having stocks upto ten metric tons of fertiliser from registration.

(iii) About 463 soil testing laboratories are functioning in the country to advise to farmers on fertiliser use.

(iv) State governments are being stressed upon from time to time to adopt balanced fertilisation including use of micronutrients.

(v) State are also advised to produce organic manures to the fullest extent and use it in an integrated manner alongwith chemical fertilisers.

Meeting of the World Petroleum Congress

3576. SHRIMATI BASAVA-RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited a number of countries including London to attend a highly technical meeting of the World Petroleum Congress; and

(b) if so, the countries visited by him and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) and (b). Yes, he attended the World Petroleum Congress which was attended by Ministers from other countries also and where matters relating to petroleum including technical matters were discussed. The countries visited were Argentina for the World Petroleum Congress and Vietnam for discussions with the Vietnamese Government regarding

ONGC Videsh Limited's ongoing exploration in off shore Vietnam. Transit halts were also made at London, Tokyo and Bangkok where discussions were held with Various oil companies who expressed a keen interest in participating in the Fourth round of bidding.

Supply of Steel Scrap to Mini Steel Plants

3577.

SHRIMATI

BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mini steel plants in the country are facing closure due to non-supply of steel scrap; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the supply of steel scrap to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Production in the mini steel plants will be affected to some extent due to the shortage of imported steel melting scrap.

(b) Import of steel melting scrap through the canalising agency, Metal Scrap Trade Corporation (MTSC), has reduced this year due to non-availability of adequate free foreign exchange. Efforts are being made to increase import of scrap through MSTC. The mini steel plants can also make imports directly through the use of Exim Scripts.

Complaints from German Companies against Indian Firms

3578. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received from German companies/firms by the Indian

Embassy in Bonn against Indian entrepreneurs/Public sector undertakings etc;

(b) whether some Indian firms/corporations/companies have also sent legal notices to protect themselves without the Government's approval;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the bilateral trade relations are likely to be affected by such commercial complaints;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the issue amicably?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMADHAV SINGH SOLANKI):

(a) In 1991, 14 commercial complaints were received by the Indian Embassy in Bonn from German companies against Indian entrepreneurs/public sector undertakings etc.

(b) Government has no information in the matter.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) All commercial complaints received against Indian companies/public sector undertakings are invariably brought to the notice of the concerned Indian company as well as the Trade Disputes Cell of the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, New Delhi, who deals with each case on the merits of issues involved under relevant rules and regulations.